



Supporting Jews of Color in Small Towns and New Localities RFP

Overview: The Jews of Color Initiative (JoCI) is a national effort that seeks to build and advance the communal field for Jews of Color. Framed by the concepts of racial justice and equity and centering the voices and experiences of Jews of Color, we are dedicated to grantmaking, research, and community education.

Based on our 2019 study, *Counting Inconsistencies*, we can approximate that Jews of Color represent at least 12-15% of American Jews, and that the future of American Jewry will be increasingly diverse. As such, more work is needed to better understand the needs of the field and build support for Jews of Color, especially in small towns and other communities the JoCI has not yet reached.

Purpose:

We are passionate about **Supporting Jews of Color in Small Towns and New Localities**. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be made to leaders, organizations, and partners in rural and small town regions outside of traditional hubs of organized U.S. Jewish communal life. Some geographic areas of interest may include the Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain Region, New England, and the South.

We will seed pilot programs and early-stage efforts by and for Jews of Color that foster community, networks (communal and professional), identity, leadership and/or power, and/or build and advance knowledge by and for Jews of Color in small towns and new localities across the U.S. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis as long as funds are available. Proposals under \$5,000 will go through an expedited process.

Examples of Projects we support will:

1. Build and nurture Jewish leaders of color and grassroots support in small town communities and other localities the JoCI has not yet reached.
2. Support more locally and culturally specific efforts, projects, and programs to advance and amplify JoC in their communities.
3. Develop surveys and other research that is by and for JoC to better understand the needs of Jews of Color in their region.

Funds may be used to hire consultants, dedicate staff time, convene JoC stakeholders, or other activities in alignment with the guidelines above.

Eligibility

- Projects led/by/for Jews of Color serving JoC communities in small towns, rural communities, and other localities in the U.S. the JoCI has not yet reached
- Projects must be housed at a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit or have fiscal sponsorship.
- Proven commitment to racial justice and equity.
- Ability to share learnings nationally with the wider Jewish community.

Application Process:

All of our grantmaking begins in conversation with our Grants team. If you are considering submitting a proposal, please reach out to us at grants@jewsofcolorinitiative.org.

Applicants are highly encouraged to participate in the informational Zoom webinar on Thursday, March 9th at 9AM PT/12PM ET. [Register here](#)